IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 62-67, 123-126, 128, 130-132, 134, and 136.

Add new claims 138-159 as follows:

1-137. (canceled)

138. (new) A method of operating a security device to protect contents of a cash cassette, the method comprising:

receiving a first signal which is indicative of a coupling mechanism of the security device being properly engaged with the cash cassette;

receiving a second signal which is indicative of a spoiling mechanism of the security device being properly positioned to spoil the contents of the cash cassette; and

in response to receiving the first and second signals, providing a third signal to indicate that both the coupling mechanism is properly engaged with the cash cassette and the spoiling mechanism is properly positioned to spoil the contents of the cash cassette, and thereby to indicate that the contents of the cash cassette are being protected.

139. (new) A security device for protecting contents of a cash cassette, the security device comprising:

a coupling mechanism for engaging with a cash cassette;

a spoiling mechanism for spoiling the contents of the cash cassette; and

a control module for (i) receiving a first signal which is indicative of the coupling mechanism being properly engaged with the cash cassette, (ii) receiving a second signal which is indicative of the spoiling mechanism being properly positioned to spoil the contents of the cash cassette, and (iii) in response to receiving the first and second signals, providing a third signal to indicate that both the coupling mechanism is properly engaged with the cash cassette and the spoiling mechanism is properly positioned to spoil the contents of the cash cassette, and thereby to indicate that the contents of the cash cassette are being protected.

140. (new) A security device for protecting contents of a cash cassette, the security device comprising:

a coupling mechanism for, when properly engaged with the cash cassette, locking onto the cash cassette to prevent the contents of the cash cassette from being accessed; and

a control module for (i) receiving an input signal which is indicative of the coupling mechanism being properly engaged with the cash cassette to lock onto the cash cassette, and (ii) sending an output signal to a control module of another security device when the input signal is received so that responsibility for protecting the contents of the cash cassette can be transferred between the control modules.

141. (new) A security device according to claim 140, wherein the coupling mechanism comprises a plurality of engagement elements moveable between locked and unlocked positions.

142. (new) A security device according to claim 141, wherein the engagement elements comprise slidable bolts.

143. (new) A security device according to claim 140, further comprising an enclosure having an opening for accepting the cash cassette.

144. (new) A security device according to claim 143, wherein the engagement elements are sequentially actuatable upon input from the control module to:

(i) lock onto the control module;

(ii) lock onto the control module and the cash cassette; and

(iii) lock onto the control module, the cash cassette, and the enclosure.

145. (new) A cash transit container security system for transporting a cash cassette to an automated teller machine (ATM), the system comprising:

a locking mechanism for, when properly locked onto a cash cassette, preventing contents of the cash cassette from being accessed during transportation of the cash cassette to the ATM;

an activatable spoiling mechanism for, when properly positioned and activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette; and

a control module for (i) controlling activation of the spoiling mechanism, (ii) sending a signal to the ATM to indicate that the locking mechanism is properly locked onto the cash cassette and the spoiling mechanism is properly positioned for, when activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette, (iii) receiving a signal from the ATM indicating that the ATM has taken over responsibility for protecting the contents of the cash cassette, and (iv) controlling the locking mechanism to unlock from the cash cassette in response to receiving the signal from the ATM, and thereby to allow the cash transit container security system to be removed from the cash cassette.

146. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the control module communicates with the ATM to validate identities and to exchange data concerning the value and/or denomination of money being transferred.

147. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a latch which allows movement of the cash cassette from a first position to a second position such that movement of the cash cassette from the first position to the second position results in activation of the spoiling mechanism to spoil the contents of the cash cassette.

148. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 145, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a plurality of engagement elements moveable between locked and unlocked positions.

149. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 148, wherein the engagement elements comprise slidable bolts.

150. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 145, further comprising an enclosure having an opening for accepting the cash cassette.

151. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 150, wherein the engagement elements are sequentially actuatable upon input from the control module to:

(i) lock onto the control module;

(ii) lock onto the control module and the cash cassette; and

(iii) lock onto the control module, the cash cassette, and the enclosure.

152. (new) A cash transit container security system for transporting a cash cassette away from an automated teller machine (ATM), the system comprising:

a locking mechanism for, when properly locked onto a cash cassette, preventing contents of the cash cassette from being accessed during transportation of the cash cassette away from the ATM;

an activatable spoiling mechanism for, when properly positioned and activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette; and

a control module for (i) controlling activation of the spoiling mechanism, (ii) receiving a signal from the ATM allowing the locking mechanism to lock onto the cash cassette, and (iii) sending a signal to the ATM to indicate that the locking mechanism is properly locked onto the cash cassette and the spoiling mechanism is properly positioned for, when activated, spoiling the contents of the cash cassette, and thereby to indicate to the ATM that the contents of the cash cassette are being protected and that the cash cassette is ready to be removed from and transported away from the ATM.

153. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 152, wherein the control module measures at least one of walk time, distance traveled, and absolute time since release of the cash cassette from the ATM, and activates the spoiling mechanism if any of the measurements exceeds a preset threshold.

154. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 152, wherein the control module communicates with the ATM to validate identities and to exchange data concerning the value and/or denomination of money being transferred.

155. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 152, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a latch which allows movement of the cash cassette from a first position to a second position such that movement of the cash cassette from the first position to the second position results in activation of the spoiling mechanism to spoil the contents of the cash cassette.

156. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 152, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a plurality of engagement elements moveable between locked and unlocked positions.

157. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 156, wherein the engagement elements comprise slidable bolts.

158. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 152, further comprising an enclosure having an opening for accepting the cash cassette.

159. (new) A cash transit container security system according to claim 158, wherein the engagement elements are sequentially actuatable upon input from the control module to:

(i) lock onto the control module;

(ii) lock onto the control module and the cash cassette; and

(iii) lock onto the control module, the cash cassette, and the enclosure.